

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) Communication apparatus including driver means ~~(5, 6)~~ for applying a switched transmission signal to a communication line ~~(3, 4)~~ with a controlled slew rate, said driver means ~~(5, 6)~~ comprising a series of transfer elements ~~(18, 20)~~ and delay means comprising a series of delay elements for introducing respective individual delays in signals applied thereto and ~~(17, 19)~~ for cumulatively establishing operational connections of said transfer elements with said communication line with respective cumulative delays in time, whereby to apply said switched transmission signal progressively to said communication line,
~~characterised in that wherein~~ said delay means comprises feedback means ~~(25, 26)~~ responsive to ~~the said switched transmission~~ signal that said driver means ~~(5, 6)~~ applies to said communication line ~~(3, 4)~~ for controlling the individual delays of introduced by said delay elements respectively ~~(23, 24)~~, so as to control the cumulative delays with which said operational connections of said transfer elements ~~(18, 20)~~ with said communication line are established.

2. (Currently Amended) Communication apparatus ~~as claimed in claim 1 and comprising~~ driver means for applying a switched transmission signal to a communication line with a controlled slew rate and a signal receiver (2) connected to receive-respond to signals from-on said communication line ~~(3, 4)~~,
said driver means comprising a series of transfer elements and delay means comprising a series of delay elements for introducing respective delays in signals applied thereto and for cumulatively establishing operational connections of said transfer elements with said communication line with respective delays in time, whereby to apply said switched transmission signal progressively to said communication line,
wherein said delay means comprises feedback means responsive to said switched transmission signal that said driver means applies to said communication line for controlling the delays of said delay elements, so as to control the delays with which said operational connections of said transfer elements with said communication line are established
and wherein said feedback means ~~(25, 26)~~ comprises reference means ~~(27, 28, 29)~~ for generating a reference rate signal having a reference rate of change, said reference means

being arranged to start generation of said reference rate signal at the a start of a slew phase of said switched signal, reference receiver means ~~(31)~~ responsive to the a value of said reference rate signal relative to a reference signal, and comparator means ~~(33)~~ responsive to relative times of response of said signal receiver and said reference receiver.

3. (Currently Amended) Communication apparatus as claimed in claim 2 ~~for applying switched signals to a pair of said communication lines (3, 4)~~, wherein said driver means ~~(5, 6)~~ is arranged to apply respective first and second switched transmission signals to a pair of said the communication lines of said pair (3, 4), said comparator means ~~(33)~~ being responsive to relative times of response of said signal receiver to a combined value of said first and second switched transmission signals and of the signal from said reference receiver means ~~(31)~~.
4. (Currently Amended) Communication apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein each of said delay elements ~~(23, 24)~~ comprises a series of delay sub-elements ~~(36)~~ connected to trigger each other in succession, and said feedback means ~~comprises means (25, 37)~~ for is arranged to select ~~selecting~~ which of said delay sub-elements in said series ~~(36)~~ triggers establishment of an operational connection of the corresponding one of said transfer elements ~~(18, 20)~~ with said communication line ~~(3, 4)~~.
5. (Previously Presented) Communication apparatus including driver circuit for applying a switched signal to a communication line with a controlled slew rate, said driver circuit comprising a series of transfer elements and delay circuit comprising a series of delay elements for cumulatively establishing operational connections of said transfer elements with said communication line, whereby to apply said switched signal progressively to said communication line, characterised in that said delay circuit comprises feedback circuit responsive to the signal that said driver circuit applies to said communication line for controlling the delays of said delay elements, so as to control the delays with which said operational connections of said transfer elements with said communication line are established.
6. (Previously Presented) Communication apparatus as claimed in claim 5, and comprising a signal receiver connected to receive signals from said communication line, wherein said

feedback circuit comprises reference circuit for generating a reference rate signal having a reference rate of change, said reference circuit being arranged to start generation of said reference rate signal at the start of a slew phase of said switched signal, reference receiver circuit responsive to the value of said reference rate signal relative to a reference signal, and comparator circuit responsive to relative times of response of said signal receiver and said reference receiver.

7. (Previously Presented) Communication apparatus as claimed in claim 6 for applying switched signals to a pair of said communication lines, wherein said driver circuit is arranged to apply respective first and second switched signals to the communication lines of said pair, said comparator circuit being responsive to relative times of response of a combined value of said first and second signals and of the signal from said reference receiver circuit.
8. (Currently Amended) Communication apparatus as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 5, wherein each of said delay elements comprises a series of delay sub-elements connected to trigger each other in succession, and said feedback circuit comprises circuits for selecting which of said delay sub-elements in said series triggers establishment of an operational connection of the corresponding one of said transfer elements with said communication line.